Atsui Hibi

-Midorikawa Yuki

=Credits=

Translator: Elcrane

Editor: Naomi

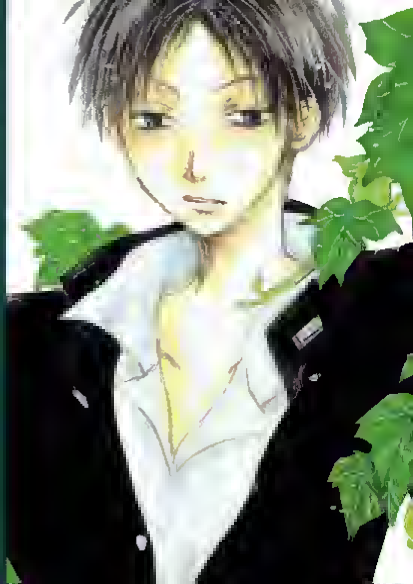
Proofreader: Qm_1993

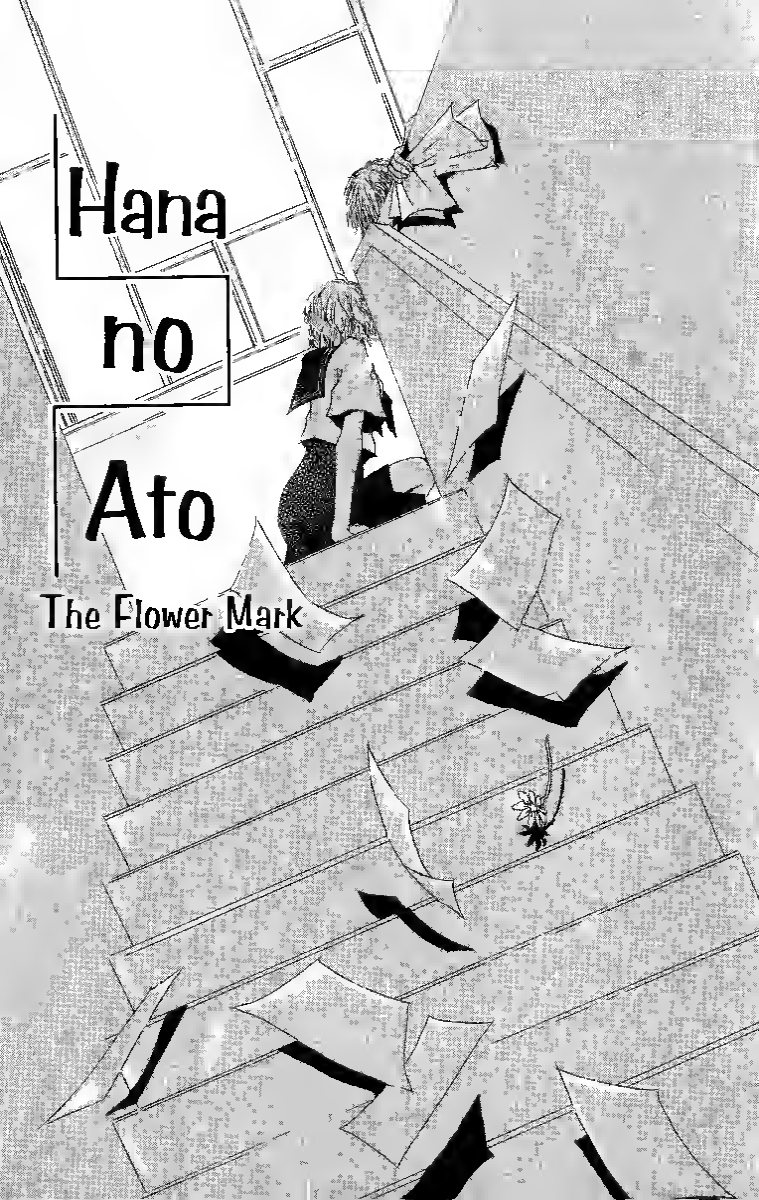
QC: DaBlah

Visit us at:

www.ochibichan.co.nr

#ochibichan@irc.irchighway.net




Hana
no
Ato
The Flower Mark

IT INCREASED AGAIN.
AH...
EH? WHAT INCREASED?

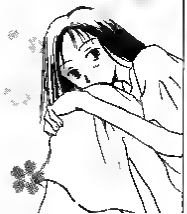
ALTHOUGH IT LOOKED SIMPLE, IT WAS IN A SHAPE I LIKED SO FOR SOME REASON I DIDN'T RUB THEM OFF
THE DRAWINGS WERE OF SOME FLOWERS
THE NUMBER OF DOODLES
RECENTLY WHEN I CAME TO SCHOOL I NOTICED SOME GRAFFITI ON MY TABLE

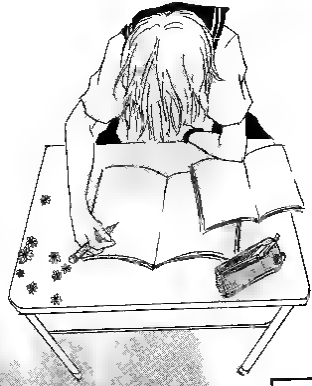
AND SOON THE NUMBER OF FLOWERS INCREASED
NEE, KIKUCHI, COULD THIS BE SOME SORT OF CONFESSION?
MM?
'Flower' = 'Love'?
...
ANYWAY, I THINK IT'S BEST TO JUST BE CAREFUL
WHO KNOWS, IT MIGHT BE SOMEONE TRYING TO IRK ME
I DON'T THINK IT'S A PRANK, SO YOU SHOULDN'T MIND IT TOO MUCH
!
AH, NEE, COULD IT BE
THANKS.
IS CLASS 2 HAVING GEOGRAPHY NEXT?
YEAH ...
THAT THE PERSON DRAWING ON YOUR TABLE DIDN'T KNOW THAT TABLE WAS YOURS

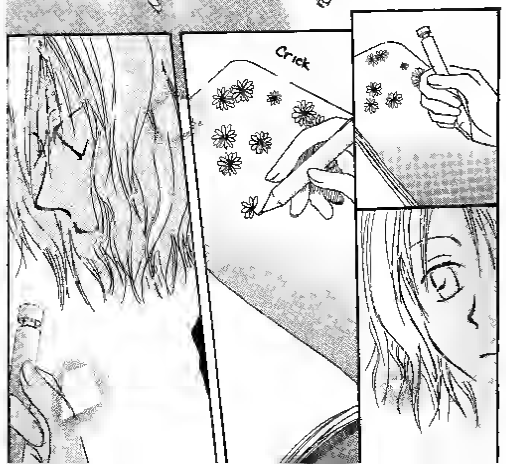
THE NIGHT CLASS!
THIS SCHOOL PROVIDES NIGHT CLASS LESSONS FOR PART-TIME STUDENTS
SOME STUDENTS FOR PERSONAL REASONS OR BECAUSE THEY ARE WORKING IN THE DAY COME TO THIS CLASSROOM FOR LESSONS A FEW NIGHTS PER WEEK
BECAUSE I JUST REMEMBERED THAT CLASS I'S CLASSROOM...
EH...
MAYBE HE COULD EVEN JUST BE DRAWING ON HIS OWN TABLE.
AH!
OH RIGHT!
I KNOW CLASS I IS USED AT NIGHT...
MAYBE SOMEONE ELSE COULD BE USING MY TABLE.
AFTER A FEW DAYS

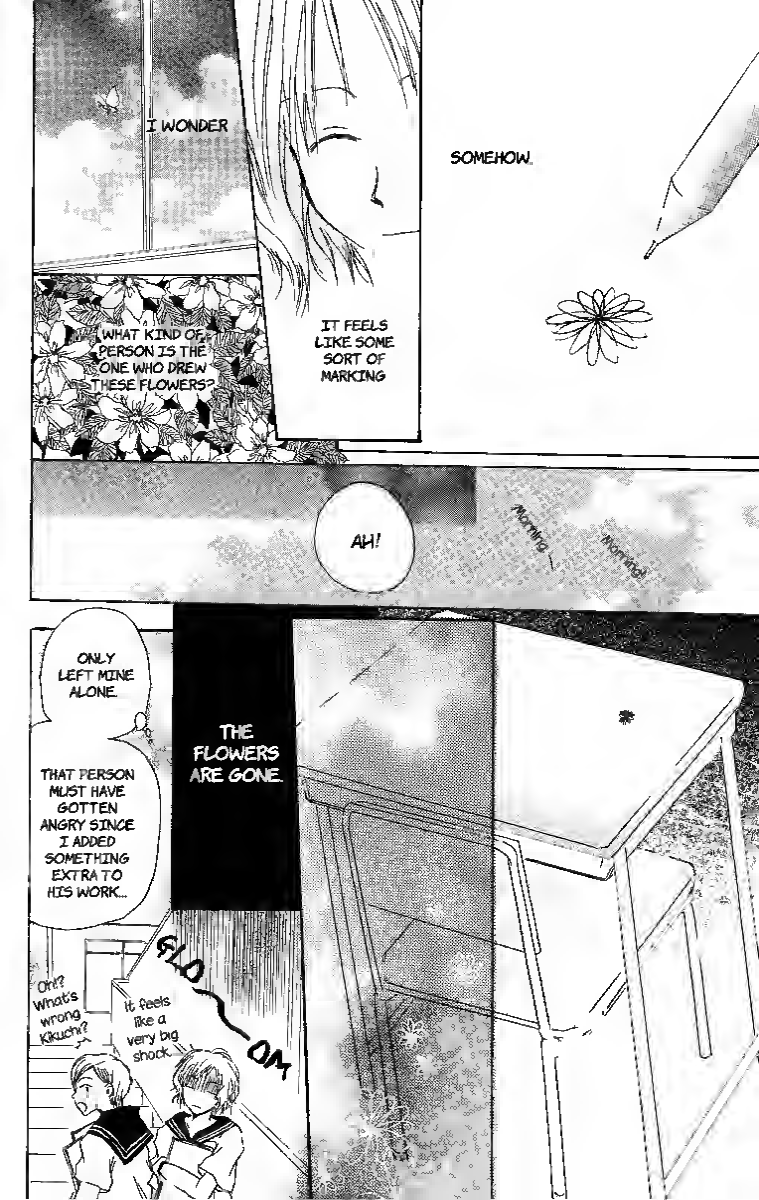
さてさて この短編集に
入っている 頃の三作品のは
それぞれ ちょっとした実験
をしております。
正直 いいますと「恋愛色」
のあるものは 描きて 描け
るのですが「恋愛モノ」を
柱とした作品は 描いた
ことが ありませんでした。
どちらかというと
人物達の心理を丁寧に
描写するより 設定と展開
の中で 彼らや彼女らが
いかに ふるまい そこで
ちらりと 何を こぼすか
のほうが やってみたい
方向性で ありまして
「恋愛モノ」を 私の力量で
やってしまうと モノローグに
ページを 取られ 展開を
けずらなければ ならなく
なることへの 恐れも
ありました。

しかし そういいわけして
なずなは 立ち向かわず
お茶を 濁しつづけて
きたのですが
ついに そのことに 大きく
ぶちあたってしまうことが
起きました。



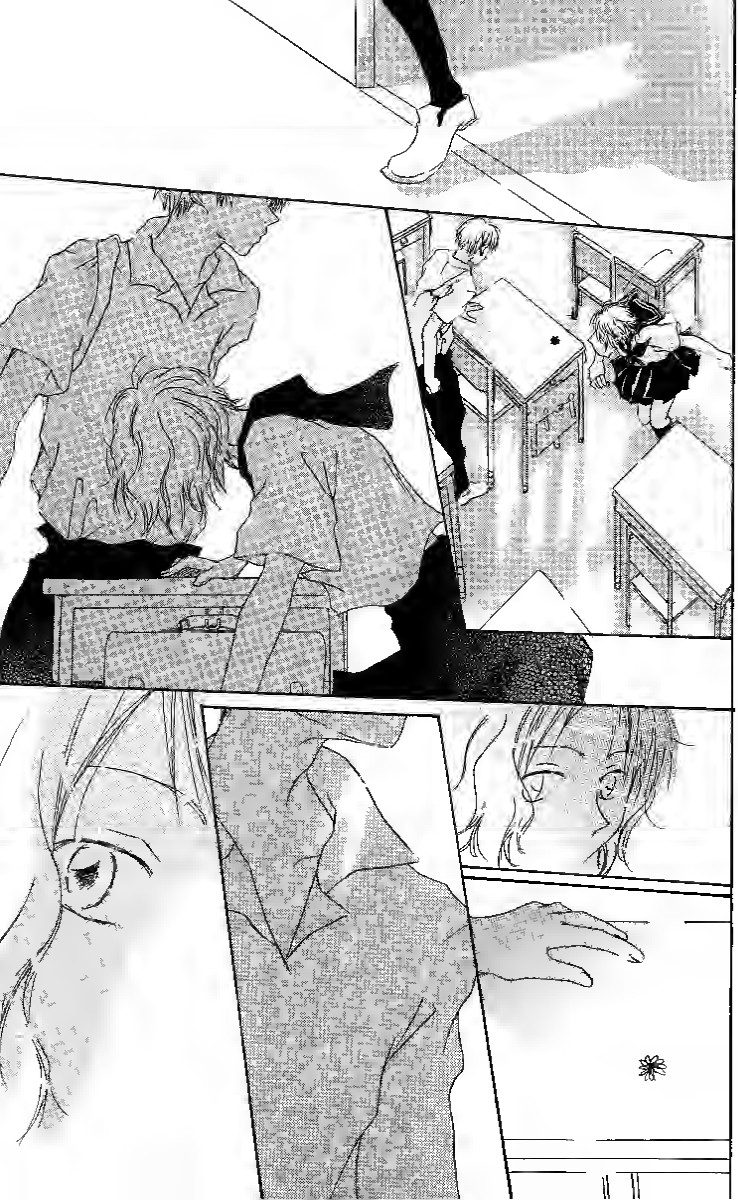





I WONDER
WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS THE ONE WHO DREW THESE FLOWERS?
IT FEELS LIKE SOME SORT OF MARKING
SOMEHOW.
AH!
Morning
Morning!
THE FLOWERS ARE GONE.
ONLY LEFT MINE ALONE.
THAT PERSON MUST HAVE GOTTEN ANGRY SINCE I ADDED SOMETHING EXTRA TO HIS WORK...
GLO
OM
Oh!? What's wrong Kikuchi?
It feels like a very big shock...

I MADE A BLUNDER
BUMP
Wump!
AH?
Sorry
WA!
KUNI-YOSHI!
S-SORRY!
THAT'S A LOT OF THINGS!
I WAS CALLED ON BY THE TEACHER TO HELP MOVE STUFF OUT OF THE OLD SCHOOL BUILDING
WHY HAVEN'T YOU GONE HOME YET?
COM-MITTEE MEET-ING...
IT JUST ENDED, I'M GOING BACK NOW, SO LET ME HELP YOU.
TH NKS BUT IT'S ALRIGHT.
OH, YOUR BAG SHOULD STILL BE IN CLASS RIGHT? IF YOU DON'T HURRY, THE PART TIME STUDENTS WILL BE THERE SOON.
WAH!
IT'S ALREADY THIS LATE!
WHY DON'T I WALK YOU HOME?
It's already this late
IT'S ALRIGHT! THANK YOU ANYWAY.
See you
AAH!
WHAT AM I DOING...!
Slide
run
run
run
Year 1 Class

MY TABLE...
GOOD EVENING.
GOOD EVENING ...
I'M SORRY, CAN I TAKE MY BAG?



ARE YOU THE ONE WHO DREW THOSE FLOWERS?
FLOW-ERS?
SOME-THING LIKE THIS.
I COPIED THIS FROM YOURS.
THIS IS YOUR TABLE?
AH... YEAH I WAS THE ONE WHO DREW THOSE
Really?
BEFORE YOU DREW THIS, I TOTALLY FORGOT THAT THIS TABLE ISN'T ACTUALLY MINE...
FORGOT...?
Though I too...
I USE IT AT NIGHT.
SORRY FOR DIRTYING YOUR TABLE
WAH! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...

I NEVER RUBBED THEM OFF BEFORE AND EVEN COPIED THEM,
BECAUSE I THOUGHT THE DRAWINGS OF THOSE FLOWERS,
WERE REALLY BEAUTIFUL.
THANK YOU. I HAVEN'T BEEN GIVEN A COMPLIMENT IN A LONG TIME.
BUT, THOSE AREN'T 'FLOWERS' OR 'DRAWINGS'
A SIGN?
NOPE.
WHEN I WAS SITTING ON THE CHAIR AND LOOKING DOWN, I SOMEHOW FELT THAT SOMETHING DROPPED ON THE TABLE.
IT STARTS UNFOLDING OUTWARDS FROM THE MIDDLE.
I HURRIEDLY TRIED TO COPY IT, BUT I COULDN'T MAKE IT,
SO I ONLY HAD THESE MARKS LEFT...
UNDER-STAND?

A FULL-TIME STUDENT?
ANYWAY IT'S JUST RANDOM DOODLES, BUT YOURS IS JUST DRAWING.
HUH?
SORRY,
URM...
BUT MINE AREN'T JUST 'DRAWINGS'
SHIKI
KURATA
THAT GIRL...
AH!
WAH! I'M SORRY, I'LL LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!
GOOD BYE

前巻ックスの
"あかく咲く声"は
私のやりたい"ハッタリ"と
求められていて私も好きになった"ニュアンス"と
いうものの バランスが
とれていたと思います。
なのに これが終わると
決まった時 次作でもこの
バランスがとれるのか
かなり不安でした。
でもまた同じ比率で
描けば かなり同じ味に
なってしまうし その比率
だったから ダメだったのかも
と悩みました。
　ということで 思いきって
ハッタリさんの「冒険もの」
として 設定を たてて
描きはじめた作品でありました。
これと その作品はやはり
「恋愛方向」が 重要として
大事な要素 となり
せっかく 冒険方向でやろう
として たてた設定を
そっちへ もって行かなければ
ならない というジレンマに
かなり 苦しむことに なり
ました。

AN UNCHANGING CLASSROOM.
AN UNCHANGING TABLE.
Bump
Wobble
Wait!
Ahh!
Whoa
Wobble
Kiku...
Wobble
ARE YOU OKAY, KIKUCHI?
EH? YEAH...
BUT.
SO IT WAS A NIGHT PART-TIME STUDENT?
YEAH, A GUY WHO IS ROUGHLY THE SAME AGE AS US.
IS THAT SO.
SUCH A STRANGE FEELING...
THOSE...
JUST DOODLES.
AREN'T FLOWERS OR DRAWINGS...
THE PERSON WHO DREW THOSE FLOWERS WAS A GUY, HUH...

THAT WAS WHAT HE SAID
AH- WHY CAN'T THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF MY CLASS MAKE A CONCLUSION...
IT'S ALREADY DARK OUTSIDE...
WHY IS MY HEART SO UNSTEADY?
IS IT BECAUSE IT'S DARK OUTSIDE THAT I HAVE AN UNEASY FEELING...
...
I'M GETTING SUCKED IN...
KIKUCHI!
IT'S LIKE...
ARE YOU GOING BACK NOW?
CAN YOU HEAD OVER TO THE OLD BLOCK AND TELL KUNIYOSHI HE CAN GO BACK NOW? I MADE HIM CLEAN THE PLACE AS PUNISHMENT.

EH?
KUNIYOSHI ALREADY WENT BACK
KUNI-YOSHI ARE YOU HERE?
WHAT DID THE TEACHER..
Dokun
THE FULL-TIME STUDENT WHO DREW THE FLOWER..
EH, YOU'RE...

THAT VOICE... KURATA-KUN!?
GOOD EVENING.
GOOD EVENING.
THERE ARE TOO MANY COLOURS IN THE DAY, IT MAKES ME UNEASY AND TIRED.
IT'S DARK HERE, SO I CAN RELAX
...
WHEN I'M TIRED I ALWAYS COME HERE.
I'M KIKUCHI
ARE YOU WORKING?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP THERE?
YEAH, BUT THAT'S QUITE RELAXING
...JUST,
...
I DON'T GET THIS GUY...

BUT..
I SEEM TO WANT TO UNDERSTAND HIM.
AS LONG AS WE TALK A BIT MORE THEN I CAN UNDERSTAND A BIT ABOUT HIM.
JUST LIKE HOW EYES GET USED TO DARK AFTER A WHILE.
WHAT WERE NOT ABLE TO SEE ARE NOW ABLE TO SEE CLEARLY
..CAN I GO UP AND HAVE A LOOK?
NO, BECAUSE THERE'S A LOT OF JUNK HERE
WON'T YOU BE AFRAID WHEN GOING HOME LATER?
EH, NO..
IS THAT SO..
GOOD BYE.

GOOD BYE...
...KIKU-CHI?
WAH! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU!?
You look bad!
A mess
KIKU
NN?
EH? THE GUY WHO DREW THE FLOWERS IS KURATA?
YOU KNOW HIM!?
BECAUSE WE WERE IN THE SAME PRIMARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL
Kuriyoshi too
BUT...
THERE WAS THIS ARTIST WHO LIKED HIS DRAWINGS AND WANTED TO TEACH HIM DRAWING WHEN HE WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL YEAR 2,
IS THAT SO?
Oooh
EVEN THOUGH HE ACTED REALLY MATURE, HIS DRAWINGS ALWAYS EXCEEDED A NORMAL PIECE OF PAPER. IT WAS REALLY AWESOME
I REMEMBER HE WAS REALLY GOOD AT DRAWING

BUT BECAUSE OF THAT, IT MADE HIM UNABLE TO DRAW ANYMORE.
...UNABLE TO DRAW?
YEAH, NOT SURE IF IT WAS BECAUSE HE HAD NO TALENT OR HIS TALENT DIED OFF,
OR MAYBE IT JUST VANISHED.
I DON'T REALLY KNOW THE ACTUAL REASON...
BUT THERE WAS A RUMOUR THAT MAYBE SOMETHING HAPPENED BETWEEN HIM AND THE ARTIST'S FAMILY, SO MAYBE THAT'S WHY HE REALLY COULDN'T DRAW ANYMORE?
"MOREOVER, WITH HIS FAMILY'S FINANCIAL CONDITION, HIS FAMILY NEVER SUPPORTED HIM GOING DOWN THAT ROAD."
AND TO BE HONEST, AFTER THAT, HE SELDOM HUNG OUT WITH ANYONE.
"BECAUSE OF SO MANY THINGS,"
"MAYBE HE SUFFERED A LOT OF STRESS..."

THE SUN HAS SET...
NIGHT HAS ARRIVED.
DARKNESS IS VERY SOOTHING TO THAT PERSON.
EVEN TONIGHT THAT PERSON WOULD BE IN...
A SMALL, SMALL DARKNESS
AH.

CAN..
CAN I SIT NEXT TO YOU?
...
SURE.
Flutter
Flutter
ERM..
WHAT AM I DOING~?
THE BIRDS FLEW AWAY...
Was too reckless..
Sorry..
It's fine.
GETTING SURROUNDED TROUBLED ME.
WANT TO EAT?
I want one.
EH?
IT- IT'S ALRIGHT
ARE YOU WORKING NOW?
RESTING NOW... AH, TODAY'S A DAY OFF, RIGHT?
YEAH... EH?

ARE THOSE COLOURING MATERIALS?
YEAH, CHEAP STUFF.
THEN YOU'RE DRAWING SOMETHING NOW...?
AH, NO, HOW COULD I BE DRAWING.
I TAKE THE PAINT OUT... AND THROW IT AWAY.
EH?
EVEN THOUGH IT FEELS BAD,
THIS WAY,
"I HEARD HE COULDN'T DRAW ANYMORE."
EH, YOU KNOW KUNIYOSHI?
YEAH.
THERE IS THE DELUSION THAT SOME OF THE COLOURS IN MY BODY HAVE BEEN DIGESTED,
IT MAKES ME FEEL MORE RELAXED.
WHY DOES THAT GUY ALWAYS WEAR PANTS WITH SUCH A HIDEOUS PATTERN?
EH!?
PATTERN PANTS?
...HEARD HE RECENTLY GOT A GIRLFRIEND.
OH, YEAH.
HIS GIRLFRIEND IS REALLY LUCKY
YEAH.
WHY DO I FEEL SO UNEASY...?

...KIKUCHI -SAN,
YOU SHOULD BE GOING BACK NOW.
THE COLOURS ON THE MOUNTAIN SIDE HAVE ALREADY STARTED CHANGING.
AAH..
AFTER SEEING THAT...
IT GOT PUSHED TO THE SIDE...
SLOWLY...
LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO RAIN.
BUT THERE'S NOT EVEN A CLOUD IN THE SKY...
SUCH A BIG CLOUD
SLOWLY..
IT FEELS LIKE IT'S GOING TO RAIN.

WHAT IS IT?
...
HOW CAN WE GET KURATA-KUN'S TALENT BACK?
...
WHAT?

TO GET AWAY FROM THE DARKNESS...
DRAWING
HOPE
LIGHT...
I... DO NOT KNOW MYSELF
ON WHAT TO DO?
HOW DO I FEEL?
EVEN THOUGH I'D RATHER GIVE UP AS IT FEELS EASIER,
BUT WHY IS IT SO PAINFUL?

I NEVER REALIZED THAT DISAPPOINTING SOMEONE WHO TRUSTED YOU... WAS SO SCARY...
...
I CAN'T REALLY EXPLAIN IT PROPERLY, BUT.
YOU ONCE CALLED ME THE PERSON WHO DREW THE FLOWERS, RIGHT?
WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ONE I DREW AND THE ONE KURATA-KUN DREW?
THAT'S A FLOWER. AND IS A FLOWER.
IT'S A REALLY BEAUTIFUL 'DRAWING OF A FLOWER'.

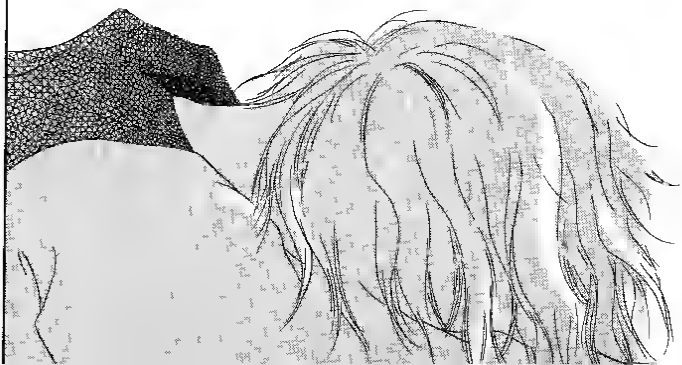
...THANK YOU.
GOOD BYE.
...
I...
YE..H.
I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN!

I'M SURE OF IT.
I HAVE PROBABLY BECOME
THAT GIRL WHO CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOUR SUFFERINGS RIGHT?
Crtch
BUT EVEN SO...

I STILL HAVE SOMETHING I REALLY WANT TO TELL YOU.
KURATA SAID BEFORE,
THAT WHEN HE SEES THE SKY, WIND OR JUST A ROAD, HE WOULD FEEL THAT A VERY POWERFUL FEELING IS COMING OUT OF HIM. IT MAKES HIM WANT TO CHANGE IT INTO SOME COLOUR OR IT WOULD START ACCUMULATING IN HIM
WHEN HE WAS YOUNG, HE COULD JUST DRAW THEM ON A PIECE OF PAPER,
BUT NOW, NO MATTER HOW MANY PIECES HE DRAWS, HE JUST CAN'T LET IT OUT
EVEN THOUGH IT WOULD COME OUT FROM..
THE EARS, NAILS, HAIR, SHOULDERS AND OTHER PLACES,
BUT IT'S STILL NOT ENOUGH.
SO HE COULD ONLY DRAW DRAWINGS THAT CAN'T SEEM TO DIGEST THAT FEELING OF HIS.
HE WOULD STILL BE SUFFERING.
NO MATTER WHAT,
ANYWAY,
MAYBE JUST A BIT..
FUFU..
EH?
..UNDER-STAND?
URM ...

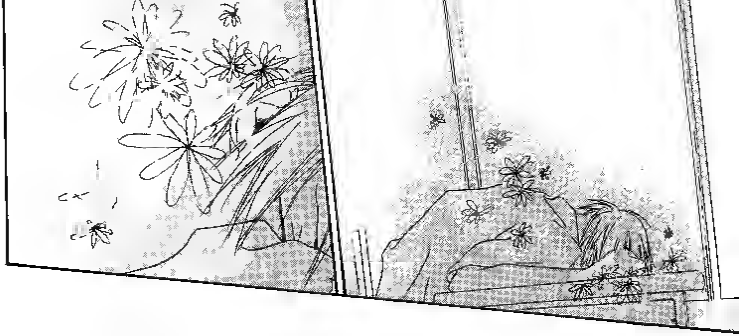
IF HE DOESN'T DRAW WOULD HE EVEN BE ABLE TO CONTINUE LIVING?
SO IS THAT WHY IT'S JUST DOODLES?
IF HE DOESN'T VENT IT OUT.
HIS HEART WOULD DEFINITELY BREAK.
SUCH A COMPLI-CATED PERSON...
BUT...

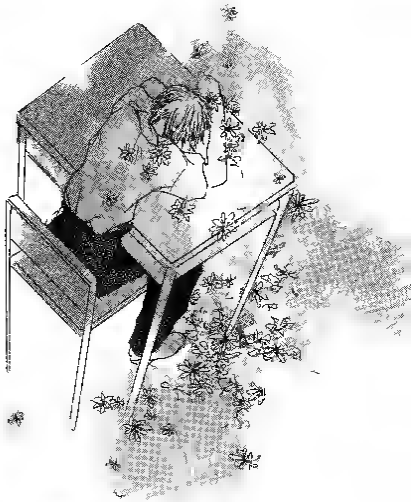
BUT, I'M REALLY ABSORBED BY THOSE "FLOWER" MARKS.
EVEN THOUGH I STILL CAN'T SEE WHAT'S ACTUALLY GOING ON.
EVEN THOUGH WE'VE ONLY TALKED A FEW TIMES.
I WANT TO SEE HIM.
I'VE ALREADY...
BEEN SUCKED IN BY HIM.

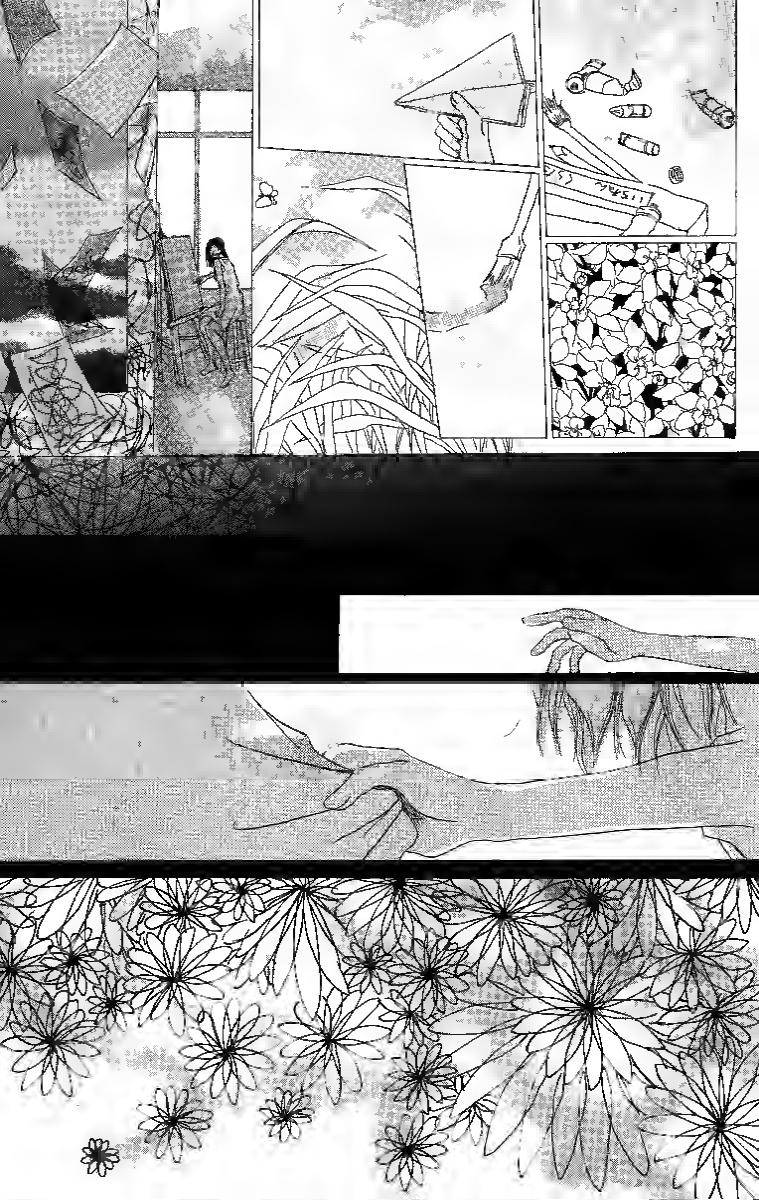

I LIKE HIM.

I like you
I like you
...KIKUCHI -SAN?

SO HOT...





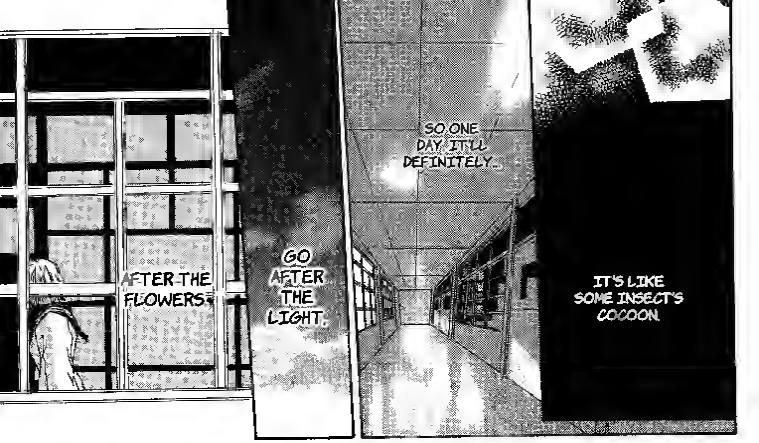


I...

I GUESS THIS IS HOW IT ENDS

I DIDN'T MANAGE TO HELP HIM FIND AN EXIT.

IN THAT SMALL, SMALL DARKNESS.


IT'S LIKE SOME INSECT'S COCOON.
SO ONE DAY IT'LL DEFINITELY...
GO AFTER THE LIGHT.
AFTER THE FLOWERS.

KURITA-KUN WHOM HER SISTER SPOILED THE 'FLOWER' AND 'CONFESSION' OFF?
WAS IT...
AH, YEAH.
BECAUSE I CAN'T STAY HERE ANYMORE.
SO I BROUGHT IT ALONG WITH ME.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'M LEAVING THIS PLACE TONIGHT
BECAUSE OF MY FAMILY.
I'VE ALREADY DECIDED LONG AGO.
THE 'FLOWER' AND THE 'CONFESSION' ARE ALREADY BURNT IN ME.
I HAD THOUGHT
NOTHING WORTH REMEMBERING IT FOR.
I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT NO MATTER WHERE I WENT IT WOULDN'T MATTER.
NO MATTER WHERE I WENT IT WOULD BE THE SAME.
THIS TOWN...

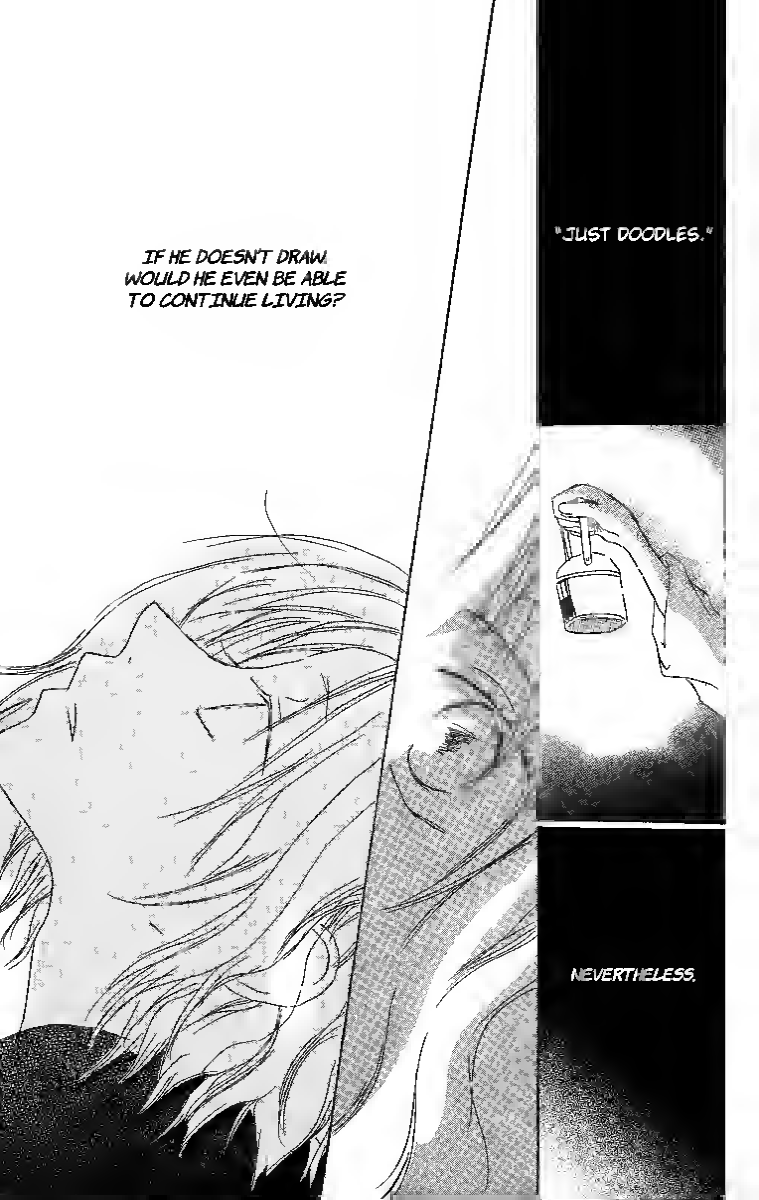
I'LL COME BACK AND SEE YOU,
ONE DAY I DEFINITELY WILL
I...
I CAN'T SEE YOUR FACE PROPERLY
CAN I TOUCH YOU?

THANK YOU...

A NEVER CHANGING CLASSROOM
A NEVER CHANGING TABLE
BUT THE FLOWER MARKS
AND THAT PERSON
HAVE ALREADY DISAPPEARED.
"AFTER YOU LEAVE"
"ERM"

"CAN I GO HAVE A LOOK AT THE ATTIC?"
"THERE REALLY IS ONLY RUBBISH THERE."
"AH... BUT THERE IS ONE THING..."
Lift
"THAT COULD BE A TREASURE."
THE CEILING IS LOW
REALLY DARK...
REALLY A MESS.
AN EMPTY COLOUR TUBE...

IT'S REALLY LIKE A LEFTOVER COCOON!
WHERE
DID THE COLOUR INSIDE GO?
"HOW COULD IT BE DRAWING"
"IT STARTS UNFOLDING OUTWARDS FROM THE MIDDLE."
I FELT SOMETHING DROPPED DOWN.
Gr96
"IT ISN'T A DRAWING."


"JUST DOODLES."
IF HE DOESN'T DRAW,
WOULD HE EVEN BE ABLE
TO CONTINUE LIVING?
NEVERTHELESS,

"THERE IS ONE THING..."
"AH..."
"BUT..."
"THERE REALLY IS ONLY RUBBISH THERE."

Drip
Drip
THE FLOWER MARK/END